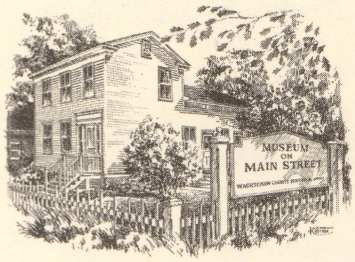
APRIL 2007

# IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FOUNDED 1857

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**INFORMATION**
Published Seven Times A Year From September-May.

Museum On Main Street
500 N. Main Street at Beakes Street
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Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

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Email: wchs-500@ameritech.net
Web Site: www.washtenawhistory.org

Annual dues: January-December individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER • RICHARD L. GALANT, PhD

## Alice Ziegler's Legacy

Alice Ziegler served as editor of the Washtenaw County Historical Society's *Impressions* newsletter for 25 years. *Quite a feat in itself!* Recently, the Society received a cache of 26 boxes from Alice's son. Members of the WCHS staff have been culling through the boxes looking for gems that tell the tale of Washtenaw County's history. Early reports indicate that the WCHS staff is finding a trove of historical treasures that are providing more insight into the rich histories both of Washtenaw County and the Society. The Society is thankful to the Ziegler family for donating Alice's materials to us.

The Society always welcomes historical papers and artifacts from the community like those that the Ziegler family has given us. If you have a historical artifact or paper that you think will add to the county's history, call the Museum at 734.662. 9092 or drop the material off at the Museum. The Society is continually adding new papers and artifacts to its collection.

Even if you do not have an artifact to give, you can still help the Society out with a monetary donation. The donation can be sent as a tax-deductible gift to a non-profit agency right now or include a donation as part of your will. The Society has been able to hire and keep employed a part-time museum director due to a generous monetary gift from the Bach family.

In whatever manner you wish to support the Washtenaw County Historical Society, the Society is always appreciative of your gift.

## In-Kind Donations

**ANN ARBOR SNOW REMOVAL**, Dexter, Michigan swept the sidewalks of the Museum on Main Street for over ten years, for which we are most grateful.

Members, **ANN and GREG DeFREYTAS**, have contributed the refreshments for each of the monthly General Meetings of the Washtenaw County Historical Society over the past several years.

**GRAFAKTRI, INC.**, on North Main Street has made the outdoor signs for the Society's exhibits ever since the opening of the museum in 1999. They also donated the large signs at the corner of Beakes & Main Streets and the one by the driveway exit when the museum opened.

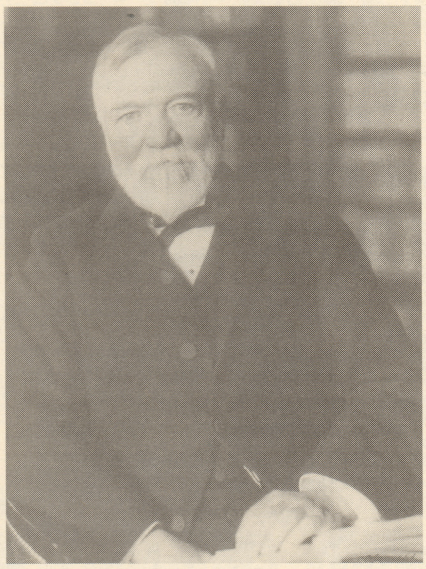
**JULIE CREAL** has donated the Christmas roping for the museum's fences for the past four holiday seasons.

**SWEEPSTER, INC**, continued to provide safe, climate-controlled storage for our large artifacts.

**NATURE'S GARDEN CENTER** of Saline donated mulch and boxwood bushes to our garden.

CONSTANCE AND CHARLES OLSON, JR.

# Carnegie Libraries: Then and Now



Portrait of Andrew Carnegie

*The Olsons spoke to a standing room audience at the Ann Arbor District Library on Sunday March 18, 2007.*

Carnegie Libraries received financial grants from Andrew Carnegie to assist in building a library. Many communities already had a library, usually a subscription library sponsored by a ladies' literary society or men's club, requiring a membership fee. Carnegie funded only free public libraries, open to everyone and would issue the grant only to an official government entity such as a city council. His grants were a major step in creating the tradition of free public libraries in the United States.

Andrew Carnegie, with his parents and younger brother, came to this country from his native Scotland in 1848 after his father's formerly successful weaving business failed. The family settled in Pittsburgh but did not find the better conditions here, as they had hoped. Andrew, at age 13, went to work to help support the family. His first job was as a bobbin boy in a cotton mill working twelve-hour days, six days a week, for $1.20 a week.

He had had very little formal education but was a bright, curious child who loved learning on his own. He wasn't content to continue as a bobbin boy and was constantly on the lookout for better opportunities. By the time he was sixteen, he was the major support for his family. As he moved into better jobs with more free time, he used that time for self-improvement, taking accounting classes and joining a debating society. But the activity that he valued most was the opportunity to use the private library of Col. James Anderson, a wealthy Pittsburg resident, who allowed local working boys to use his library free of charge.

Before he was twenty, Andrew made his first business investment, a railroad venture. Over the years he moved from railroads into steel and eventually became the second wealthiest man in the country, second only to John D. Rockefeller. While accumulating his wealth, he also developed a philosophy of wealth. He thought it was a disgrace to die wealthy so he devised ways to give away his money. He didn't believe in direct handouts and would donate only to people who would use it to help themselves or causes that would advance mankind.

He remembered how much he valued the use of Col. Anderson's library and thus, he thought a library was a perfect gift. His first library gift was to his hometown in Scotland in 1881. The first United States library gift was in 1886 to Allegheny, PA where he had a large steel plant and it was supposedly built for the benefit of his workers and their families. It was a large, elaborate building containing an art gallery and a twelve hundred seat auditorium with a $20,000 organ. (In addition to giving libraries and other buildings, he donated over seven thousand organs to churches around the world.) Three other Pennsylvania towns received money for libraries. One of these towns was originally two small towns that joined together and

Allegheny, PA, first in the USA

was re-named, Carnegie, PA., in order to get the library.

In 1891 he received a request for funds to build a library in Fairfield, Iowa. This was the first gift he did not instigate, and it was the first outside Pennsylvania. It was also the beginning of a project that would result in building over 2800 libraries in English speaking countries during the next twenty-five years. 1689 of those libraries were in the United States and only Delaware, Rhode Island, and Alaska did not receive one. Michigan was the recipient of fifty-three grants for sixty-one buildings and ranked tenth in the number of libraries built. Among the remaining top ten states, only California was not located in the Midwest.

The project was never advertised. It just seemed to have its own momentum. The process was fairly simple. A community would send a request to Carnegie and then would be asked to provide information about population and present library facilities. When a grant was approved, the amount was based on population, usually $2-$3 per person. The approval letters were signed by James Bertram, Carnegie's personal secretary, who handled most of the requests. (The recipients may have thought he was uneducated because some of the

spelling was rather odd. That was because Carnegie and Bertram were both members of the Simplified Spelling Society. Carnegie believed that English would become the universal language if the spelling were simplified.)

The requirements for receiving a grant were: the community must provide the building site, it must agree to provide annual support in the amount of ten percent of the original grant, and the grant money must be used only for the construction of the building; nothing for staff, books, or operating expenses.

These requirements sometimes led to controversy and bickering as the local government and general population tried to agree on a proper site and how to provide the necessary funding. Some of the arguments were: the library would be used by and benefit only the wealthy, upper class; it would be populated only by the local riff-raff; it would raise the cultural level of the community; it would spread all kinds of diseases. When the many issues were settled, the community had usually united and felt a great amount of pride in the library, a condition that frequently continues today.

Our interest has been in the current status of the buildings and how they have adjusted to the common needs of more space, handicap access, and parking. My very rough estimate is that about 42% - and the number is declining rapidly – are still being used as public libraries. They have adapted in one of three ways: squeeze everything into the original space; build an addition; annex an adjacent building. The method chosen is largely dependent on funding, but also on space for expansion and community support.

The fate of the approximately 60% of Carnegie buildings no longer used as libraries is varied. Several have been destroyed by fire and many have been razed, especially during the 1950s and 1960s. A large number have been adapted to other uses such as art museums, historical museums, business offices, and even private residences. Our Ann Arbor Carnegie building is an example of alternate use. It was purchased by the University of Michigan in the mid-1950s and converted to classroom use.

CARNEGIE CORPORATION
OF NEW YORK
576 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
2 EAST 91 ST. STREET

MAR 14 1913

Mrs Martha G.Willis,
Secretary
Public Library,
WATERLOO, Ind.

Dear Madam:

Responding to your communications on behalf of WATERLOO, Ind. town and township, if the town and township agree by resolution of town and township trustees to maintain a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than Nine hundred dollars a year, and provides a suitable site for the bilding, Carnegie Corporation of New York will be glad to give Nine thousand dollars ($9000) to erect a Free Public Library Bilding for WATERLOO, Ind., Town and Township.

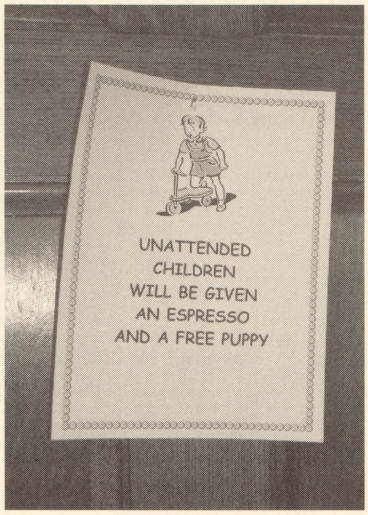
It should be noted that the amount indicated is to cover the cost of Library Bilding complete, redy for occupancy and for the purpose intended.

Before any expenditure on bilding or plans is incurd, the approval of proposed plans by Carnegie Corporation of New York should be secured, to obtain which pleas send sketch plans for inspection.

Very truly yours,
CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.
By Jas Bertram
Secretary.

**Letter agreeing to a grant**

**Above: Ann Arbor, MI**




**Right: Poster at the Mendon, MI library**

Now it faces destruction although the façade may be preserved. The University seems to recognize it as a piece of American cultural history.

The first Carnegie Library built in Michigan was at Ironwood. It is one of three Carnegie Libraries in the Upper Peninsula still operating in the buildings built with Carnegie funds. The others are at Houghton and Ishpeming. The Houghton library has little room to expand, and the Ishpeming library obtained more space by building a mezzanine in the lofty space of its main floor.

Annexing an adjacent building has been a frequent way to acquire more space, such as the annexation of the adjacent county jail to expand the library at Sandusky, Ohio, and the annexation of the former city hall by the library at LaGrange, Indiana. None of the remaining Carnegie Libraries in Michigan have followed this route.

Many Carnegie Libraries are now national historic sites, a designation that can limit opportunities to expand. The library at Manistee is located within the Manistee Historical District. To provide handicapped access, an addition with a ground floor entrance and an elevator was built at the rear without changing the frontal appearance of the building.

**Sparta, MI**

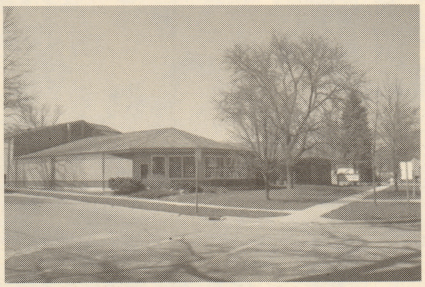
**Sparta with addition preserving a large tree**

We have seen a number of exciting additions, including the one at Sparta, Michigan, with its handicapped ramp to the children's section in the original building that was built around an interior atrium. A two-story, reverse-bay-window was included in the addition to preserve a large tree at the rear of the original building.

At Clyde, Ohio, the addition was built with a field-stone exterior that so closely matches the field-stone of the original structure that it is difficult to determine where the original structure stops and the addition begins.

The original building at Angola, Indiana, was two-story, made of brick,

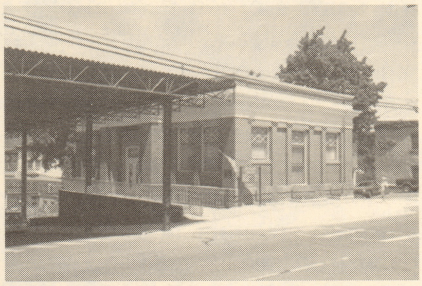
**Clyde, OH**



**Angola, IN – new addition surrounding the original building**

**Angola, IN – original building enclosed in the new addition**

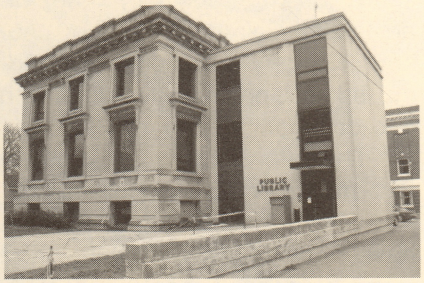
**Ironwood, MI, first in Michigan**



**Houghton, MI**

**Ishpeming, MI**

**Manistee, MI**

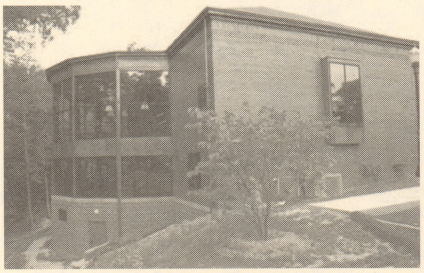


**Manistee library addition**

Howell, MI

Howell, MI – interior restored

Portland, MI



Portland, MI – addition to the rear of the original building

Portland, MI – interior view showing stone exterior wall of original building

and had a fountain in the front yard. Today, you can't see the original building or the fountain until you go inside the ground-floor entrance to the addition that was built completely surrounding the original structure and fountain. The original structure serves as the Reference Section and the addition provided an elevator for handicapped access.

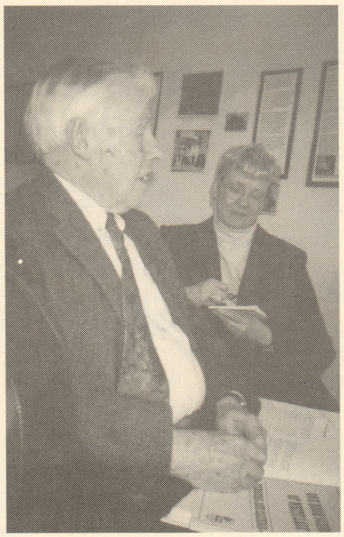
Among the more exciting libraries we visited are two in Michigan that have additions designed by David Osler Associates of Ann Arbor. These are at Howell and Portland. Both additions were attached at the rear of the original structure without significantly altering the frontal appearance. Both also preserve some of the original exterior walls as interior walls fronting the additions. Notice the lighting fixtures in the interior view of the Howell library. This style was used extensively throughout many of the Carnegie Libraries. Note, also, the similar fixtures in the far rear of the Portland library, the original part of the building.

Angola, IN – fountain from front lawn now enclosed within addition

**Photos by Charles Olson, Jr.**

# One-Room Schoolhouse Open House

On Sunday, March 11, 2007, members and guests gathered to share their memories about their experiences in one-room schoolhouses. Two of those who spoke were William McKeachie and Elmer Diuble.



**Left: William McKeachie talking about one-room schoolhouses and Marcia McCrary taking notes.**

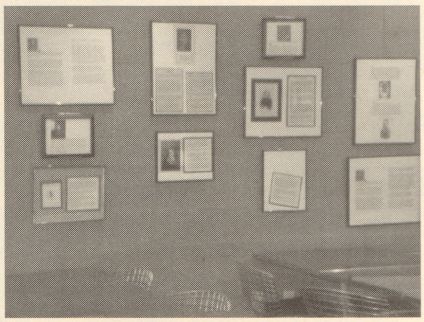
**Right: Elmer Diuble reminiscing.**

***Photos by Susan Wineberg***

# Exhibit at Mallets Creek Library

The traveling exhibit, WOMEN'S WORK & STYLE, is currently on display at the Mallets Creek Library at 3090 Eisenhower Parkway. It will be available until Sunday, April 29.

**Another view of exhibit**



**Mallets Creek exhibit**

***Photos by Alice Cerniglia***

# Upcoming Events

Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County
**Sunday, April 22, 2007 1:30 p.m.**
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium – parking lot P
**Genealogy Software Workshop** Is your old genealogy program no longer meeting your needs? Want to try something new but not sure what to buy? Several popular programs including Legacy, The Master Genealogist, Family Tree Maker and PAF as well as mapping and photo editing programs will be discussed followed by a hands-on session where members can try out the programs and ask questions from our own experts.

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Kempf House Museum
**Wednesday, April 25, 2007 12 noon**
312 S. Division, Ann Arbor, MI
**Noon lecture: Ann Arbor in 1892**
Wystan Stevens, well-known local historian, will share information he recently found in an *Ann Arbor Argus* from 1892.

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Delhi Bridge Historic District Study Committee
**Wednesday, April 25, 2007 7:00 p.m.**
Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Vogel Room C 1819 S. Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor,MI
**Public hearing**: overview of the proposed Delhi Bridge Historic District and public comment session.
For information contact Richard Cook at 734-741-1267 or Deborah Webster at 734-994-7943.

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Cobblestone Farm Association
**Saturday, April 28, 2007 12:00 p.m.-4 p.m.**
Cobblestone Farm Museum 2781 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor, MI
**Spring Cleaning**. Ox team demonstration. Open and wash the windows. Mop the wood floors. Air out the closets. Cook on the wood stove. Clean and sharpen tools. Straighten up the wood shed. Get the house garden ready to plant. There's plenty to do on this old farm!

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Saline Area Historical Society
**Saturday, May 19, 2007 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
Rentschler Farm Museum 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI
**Springtime on the Farm** Join us for a springtime celebration with baby animals, traditional demonstrations, crafters including a blacksmith, gardening, tours of the 12-room farmhouse, good food, gift shop, special activities for children and wagon rides. The *Saline Fiddlers* will perform at 12:30 p.m. and *New Horizons Band* will entertain at 2:30 p.m.
Adult admission: $1 donation; Children Free.

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Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County
Sunday, May 20, 2007 1:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium – parking lot P
Tom Barrett will speak on **Patterns of Immigration: 1800-2000** including "Old" and "New" immigrants to the United States, changing patterns in origins, numbers, and assimilation ...or not... into American culture. Class: **There Are No Dumb Questions**

# Sesquicentennial

The 150th committee is well on its way to finalizing the plans for the dedication of the soon-to-be-installed flag pole in the garden on Saturday, June 16 at 2:00 pm. Guests are invited to the Garden Party that will follow.

Plans are well under way for the Grand Party on Sunday, July 29 that will take place in a large tent in the parking area of the Museum on Main Street.

The new exhibit will open in time for the flag pole dedication and will use many of the Society's artifacts to tell the history of the Washtenaw County Historical Society, Washtenaw County and our building.

# Only an Eighth Grade Education

Remember when our grandparents. great grandparents, stated that they only had an 8th education? Well let's think about that! Could any of us have passed the 8th grade in 1895?

This is the 8th grade examination from Salinas, Kansas. It was taken from the original document in the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salinas, Kansas, and was reprinted by the Salinas Journal,

**8th Grade Final Exam**

**Grammar (Time, 1 hour)**

1. Give nine rules for the use of Capital letters.
2. Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define Verse, Stanza and Paragraph.
4. What are the principal Parts of a verb? Give Principal Parts of lie, lay and run.
5. Define a Case. Illustrate each Case.
6. What is Punctuation? Give rules for principals marks of Punctuation.
7. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

**Arithmetic (Times, 1.25 hours)**

1. Name and define the fundamental rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2ft. deep, 10 ft. long and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 2942 lbs. what is it worth at 50cts/bushel, deducting 1050 lbs? For tare?
4. District No. 33 has a valuation of $35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at $50 per month, and have $104. For incidentals?
5. Find cost of 6720lbs. coal at $6.00 per ton?
6. Find the interest of $512.60 for eight months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. long at $20 per meter?
8. Find bank discount on $300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at $15 per acre? The distance around which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, a promissory Note, and a Receipt.

**U.S. History (Time, 45 minutes)**

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
3. Relate the causes and the results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States
5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas. *replace with Michigan).
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607. 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.

**Orthography (Time, one hour)**

1. What is meant by the following: Alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, and syllabication?
2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
3. What are the following, and give examples of each: Trigraph, sub vocals, diphthong, and cognate letters. Linguals**?**
4. Give four substitutes for caret 'u'.
5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.' Name two exceptions under each rule.
6. Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.
7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, sup.
8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables and following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, Fare, last.
9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, fane, fain, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.
10. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

**Geography (Time one hour)**

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas (Michigan)?
3. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?
4. Describe the mountains of North America.
5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspenwall & Orinoco.
6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the United States.
7. Name the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
8. Why is the Atlantic coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
9. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.
10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.

Notice that the exam took five hours to complete. This test is very humbling, and gives meaning to "only an 8th grade education."

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

**WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

Celebrating 150 Years – 1857-2007
Saturday, June 16 - Flag
Sunday, July 29 – Grand Party

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
**PAID**
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 96

**WEDNESDAY • 6 PM**
**MAY 16, 2007**

**POTLUCK SUPPER**
**ANNUAL MEETING**
**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**DEXTER AREA MUSEUM**
**3443 INVERNESS ST • DEXTER**
**BEVERAGES & TABLE SERVICE PROVIDED**
**BRING A DISH FOR 8 TO PASS**
**INFORMATION • 734.662.9092**

MEMBER 2007
NANCY KROHN
905 ROBIN RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48103-3008

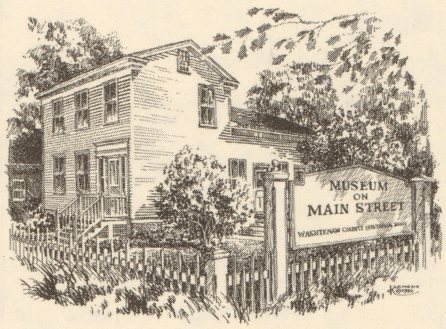
48103\3008 C030



# Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, May 16, 2007**
**ANNUAL WCHS MEETING**
**Dexter Area Museum**

Potluck Supper
Annual Meeting
Election of officers




# Mission Statement

*The purpose of the Washtenaw County Historical Society is to foster interest in and to elucidate the history of Washtenaw County from the time of the original inhabitants to the present. Its mission shall be to carry out the mandate as stated through the preservation and presentation of artifacts and information by exhibit, assembly, and publication. And to teach, especially our youth, the facts, value and the uses of Washtenaw County history through exhibits in museums and classrooms, classes, tours to historical places, and other educational activities.*